

5-24-99

Date

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 8418 '99 JUN -1 A10:41
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

To Whom It May Concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law and terminology for irradiated foods. As a consumer, I require complete information regarding ingredients and treatments of the food I buy and eat. Without this information I cannot make an informed choice.

I am appalled that the FDA is considering removing all current labeling requirements for irradiated food. PLEASE CONTINUE this labeling using the terms "irradiated" or "irradiation" and the Radura symbol. The print should be as large or larger than that used for the ingredients list and be located on the front of the package. For foods such as produce, a prominent display sign should use those same terms and symbol. Other alternatives are NOT acceptable.

Since radiation may alter the taste, texture, storage characteristics and nutritional content of food, correct and complete labeling is necessary to avoid misleading the consumer. If I do not know to expect these changes in food characteristics how will I know if my food is spoiled and must be discarded? How will I know to increase my vitamin and mineral supplementation to make up for the nutrients lost in the radiation process?

The FDA itself concluded irradiation is a "material fact" about the processing of a food and thus it should be disclosed. **Please prevent the labeling law from expiring.**

Sincerely,

JAMES Smith

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